

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OIC-02 ARA-14 EA-09 NEA-10
DHA-02 /130 W

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R 211401Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1845
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 2358

UNCLAS LAGOS 6983

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM, UN, XA, NI, US
SUBJ: LAGOS ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE - SOWETO ANNIVERSARY

REF: LAGOS 6790

1. NIGERIA'S UN AMBASSADOR LESLIE HARRIMAN MET WITH PRESS IN LAGOS YESTERDAY AND PROVIDED ADDITIOCEL DETAILS ON PLANS FOR THE LAGOS WORLD CONFERENCE FOR ACTION AGAINST APRTHEID (REFTEL). HE DESCRIBED THE CONFERENCE AS "ONE OF COMMITMENT AND ACTION TO ERADICATE APARTHEID"

AND ADDED YOUTH AND STUDENT GROUPS TO THE LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS WHICH WOULD BE SENDING REPRESENTATIVES. HE ANNOUNCED THAT THE FMG IS ESTABLISHING AN INTER-MINISTERIAL TASK FORE TO OVERSEE PRERATIONS. (NOT: IN OTHER ACTION P.B. KOROYE, WHO HAS BEEN NAMED ORGANIZING SECR E-

TARY FOR THE CONFERENCE, LEFT FOR CONSULTATIONS IN NEW YORK OVER THE WEEKEND. CURRENTLY ATTACHED TO THE PERMANENT SECRETARY'S OFFICE
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IN MEA, KOROYE IS A CAREER FOREIGH SERVICE OFFER WHO HAS SERVED IN WASHINGTON AND LISBON). DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE,

2. HARRIMAN CLAIMED THAT NIGERIA'S TRADE LINKS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE FORMAIGERIA TO INFLUENCE THE COURSE OF EVENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. CITING TRADE FIGURES WHICH SHOWED U.S. TRADE WITH NIGERIA AND BLACK AFRICA

FAR EXCEEDING THAT WITH SOUTH AFRICA, HARRIMAN SAID IF AFRICAN COUNTRIES COULD UNITE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DRAW THE U.S. "AWAY FROM" SOUTH AFRICA. AT SAME TIME HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN ROLE BEING PLAYED BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND U.S. GOVERNMENT. HARRIMAN WAS CRITICAL OF BRITISH POLICY SPECIFICALLY MAKING REFERENCE TO VETOES IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

3. THE AMBASSADOR POINTED TO THE SUCCESS OF NIGERIA'S SOUTH AFRICAN RELIEF FUND (SEE LAGOS A-001 OF 1/7/77) AS INDICATIVE OF POPULAR SUPPORT IN AFRICA FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. (COMMENT: FMG RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT DONATIONS TO THE FUND NOW EXCEED TEN MILLION DOLLARS).

4. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT NIGERIA OBSERVED THE ANNIVERSARY OF SOWETO WITH A SERIES OF PUBLIC PROCESSIONS AND LECTURES LAST WEEK. IN AN IMPRESSIVE AND WELL RECEIVED APPEARANCE AT THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TSIETSI MASHININI, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOWETO STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL, SPOKE ON THE NEED FOR INDEPENDENT AFRICA TO HELP FREE AFRICANS IN SOUTH AFRICA BY PROVIDING MORAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE. HE INDICATED THAT THERE ARE OTHER TEAMS CURRENTLY TRAVELLING IN AFRICA WITH THE SAME MESSAGE. NIGERIA'S HEAD OF STATES OBASANJO RECEIVED MASHININI AND HIS TEAM AT DODAN BARRACKS AND ASSURED THEM OF THE FMG'S FULL SUPPORT. THE NIGERIAN LEADER COMMENDED THE STUDENTS FOR HAVING MADE SOWETO "HAPPEN" AND URGED THEM TO CONTINUE THE

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STRUGGLE. AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, ALFRED NSO, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICA, MADAM LEAH MABENA, IDENTIFIED AS A WOMAN ACTIVIST FROM SOWETO, AND THE RESIDENT SWAPO REPRESENTATIVE IN NIGERIA MR. KAMPALA ADDRESSED ANOTHER GROUP WHICH HAD GATHERED TO OBSERVE THE ANNIVERSARY OF SOWETO.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment:
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Executive Order: N/A
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